

CLEARER PUBLIC DECLARATION TO DATE OF THE REALITY PARTY'S COMMUNIST AFFILIATION. KARACHMANOV STATED THAT SUCH STATEMENTS AT THIS TIME WOULD IRRITATE THE SOVIETS, WHO WOULD PROBABLY PREFER AMIN TO APPEAR AS "OFFICIAL" AS POSSIBLE IN ORDER TO GROOM HIS PAIR OF SUPPORT. THE TURKS INTERPRETED ANOTHER INCIDENT AS AN INDICATION OF USSR-AMIN STRAINS: SOVIET AMBASSADOR PUTANOV, "PERHAPS PLAYING THE ROMAN CONSUL", HAD SENT THE COM IN HIS PLACE TO ATTEND FOREIGN MINISTER SHABALI'S RECENT BRIFFING FOR SOCIALIST BLOC AMBASSADORS.

5. ASYLUM: AT THE SAME BRIFFING, SHABALI REPORTEDLY ANNOUNCED THAT AFGHAN OFFICERS HAD SEEN VATANJAR AND THE OTHER TWO MINISTERS PERIOD SEPTEMBER 13 ENTERING THE SOVIET EMBASSY THE SAME DAY. KARACHMANOV BELIEVED THAT THE THREE MINISTERS MIGHT WELL STILL BE INSIDE THE SOVIET EMBASSY; IN ANY CASE, HE WAS SURE THEY WERE NOT DEAD, CITING AS SUPPORT AMIN'S RECENT STATEMENT TO FOREIGN JOURNALISTS THAT HE KNEW WHERE VATANJAR, ET AL, WERE, BUT THAT THEY COULD NOT BE REACHED BY TELEPHONE.

6. PUTANOV: THE TURKS "KNOW" THAT SOVIET AMBASSADOR PUTANOV WAS PRESENT AT THE ARS PALACE WHEN THE SHOOTING STARTED. THEY RECONSTRUCTED EVENTS THUS: TARAKI HAD SUMMONED AMIN TO THE PALACE. AMIN, MINDFUL OF A SIMILAR INVITATION THE PREVIOUS YEAR TO A RECALCITRANT MINISTER WHO WAS EXECUTED UPON APPEARING AT THE PALACE, ASKED PUTANOV TO BE PRESENT, HOPING THAT HE WOULD CONSTITUTE A SORT OF LIFE INSURANCE. THE TURKS DID NOT KNOW WHO STARTED THE SHOOTING, AND, GIVEN PUTANOV'S INVITED PRESENCE, THEY BELIEVED IT POSSIBLE THAT AMIN MIGHT NOT HAVE PLANNED TO STRIKE AT TARAKI, AT LEAST NOT AT THAT MOMENT.

7. ETEMADI: THE TURKS NOW BELIEVED FORMER PRIME MINISTER AHMAD ETEMADI (DETS B, C, D) HAD BEEN EXECUTED. AFGHAN GRIEF OF INTELLIGENCE ASAFULLAH AMIN HAD REPORTEDLY TOLD "SOME OF HIS FRIENDS" THAT ETEMADI HAD BEEN EXECUTED ON TARAKI'S ORDERS. CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE TENDED TO CONFIRM THIS, IN THE TURKISH VIEW: SINCE ETEMADI'S IMPRISONMENT THE DAY AFTER THE TARAKI REVOLUTION, HIS FAMILY HAD BEEN PERMITTED, WITHOUT SEEING HIM, TO BRING FRESH FOOD AND CLOTHES TO THE PRISON AND TO EXCHANGE LETTERS WITH HIM. ABOUT TWO MONTHS AGO THESE PRIVILEGES WERE CUT BACK, AND TEN DAYS AGO, EVEN THE LETTER EXCHANGE WAS STOPPED.

8. SAMs: THE TURKS HAD RECEIVED REPORTS THAT AMIN HAD HAD SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILES INSTALLED AT BAGRAM AIRBASE. THEY SAW THIS AS A VERY SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT IF TRUE; THE ONLY FORESEEABLE TARGETS OF SUCH WEAPONS COULD BE

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO RUEHCU/SECSTATE WASHDC 8882

RUSBLK/AMEMBASSY KABUL 1846

INFO RUEBQQ/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 3832

RUEHHO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 1489

RUQMHR/AMEMBASSY TEHRAN 4178

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 82 OF 82 ANKARA 27965

AFGHANISTAN'S OWN AIRCRAFT. IF AMIN HAD IN FACT INSTALLED WEAPONS AGAINST THE EVENTUALITY OF A STRIKE BY HIS OWN AIR FORCE, THIS WAS NEW EVIDENCE OF FURTHER REAL OR PERCEIVED EROSION OF AMIN'S CRUCIAL MILITARY SUPPORT. KARAGOSMANOVU ASKED US TO CHECK THE REPORTS OF THE SAM INSTALLATIONS AT BAGRAM.

9. PURGES: THE TURKS HAD HEARD THAT AFGHAN CHIEF OF STAFF AND FORMER KARAI ALDE DE CAMP GENERAL YAKUP WOULD BE PURGED. THEY ALSO "KNEW" THAT MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS FANJSHIRI (REF A, PARA 5). "ONE OF THE LAST OF THE PACEMAKERS" IN THE AMIN GOVERNMENT, HAD DEPARTED FOR MOSCOW "FOR HEALTH REASONS" ONLY FIVE DAYS AFTER ASSUMING HIS PORTFOLIO.

12. ACTION REQUESTED: WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY CONFIRMATION OR COMMENTS DEPARTMENT OF ARMY CAN OFFER ON THE TURKISH REPORTS, PARTICULARLY ON THE INFORMATION OF THE BAGRAM SAM INSTALLATION, FOR USE IN OUR CONTINUING DISCUSSIONS WITH THE TURKS. SPIERS

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO RUEHPC/SECSTATE WASHDC 4000

RUEHBA/AMEMBASSY WASHDC 1040

INFO RUEHBA/AMEMBASSY WASHINGTON 1041

RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 1041

RUEHPR/AMEMBASSY TEHRAN 1041

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 31 OF 32 ANKARA 37065

E.O. 12855: FOR 12/25/75 (U.S. EMBASSY) 12-75

TACS: MOPS, PINS, TERS, ET. AL.

SUBJECT: (C) INSIDE INFORMATION ON AFGHANISTAN SITUATION

REFS: (A) STATE 203749; (B) ANKARA 7349; (C) WASH 7357;
(D) STATE 254346; (E) WASH 1040

1. (C) - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. THIS IS AN ACTION MESSAGE; SEE PARA 3.

3. SUMMARY: DURING DISCUSSION OF EVENTS IN AFGHANISTAN, AN MVA OFFICER TOLD US THAT THE TURKS CONCURRED WITH THE U.S. ASSESSMENT OF THE STRAINS BETWEEN AMIN AND THE SOVIETS. THE TURKS BELIEVED THAT THE THREE MINISTERS WHO FLED FROM AMIN MIGHT BE IN HIDING IN THE SOVIET EMBASSY; THAT SOVIET AMBASSADOR RUZANOV WAS PRESENT AT THE ANG PALACE AT AMIN'S INVITATION WHEN THE BULLETS FLEW; AND THAT FORMER PRIME MINISTER IZATULLAH WAS DEAD. THE TURKS WERE VERY INTERESTED IN REPORTS THEY HAD RECEIVED THAT AMIN HAD HAD SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILES INSTALLED AT BAGRAM AIRBASE. THEY HAD ALSO HEARD THAT AMIN'S FORMER AIDE DE CAMP, CHIEF OF GENERAL STAFF YAKUP, MIGHT BE HEADED FOR A PURGE, AND THAT MINPUBLIC WORKS PANJSHIRI HAD LEFT FOR MOSCOW "FOR HEALTH REASONS". END SUMMARY.

4. AMIN/USSR STRAINS: KAROFF CALLED ON MVA MIDLY EAST/ NORTH AFRICA SECTION CHIEF ALF KARASMANOGLU OCTOBER 24 FOR A DISCUSSION BASED ON REF (A). ACCORDING TO KARASMANOGLU, THE TURKS SHARED THE U.S. ASSESSMENT THAT THERE WERE STRAINS BETWEEN AMIN AND THE SOVIETS. KARASMANOGLU POINTED TO AMIN'S OCTOBER 14 SPEECH BEFORE A MEETING OF THE NEW CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE, IN WHICH HE DECLARED AMIN WOULD END "DICTATORSHIP OF THE PROLETARIAT" AND "STATE OWNERSHIP OF THE MEANS OF PRODUCTION", AS AMIN'S